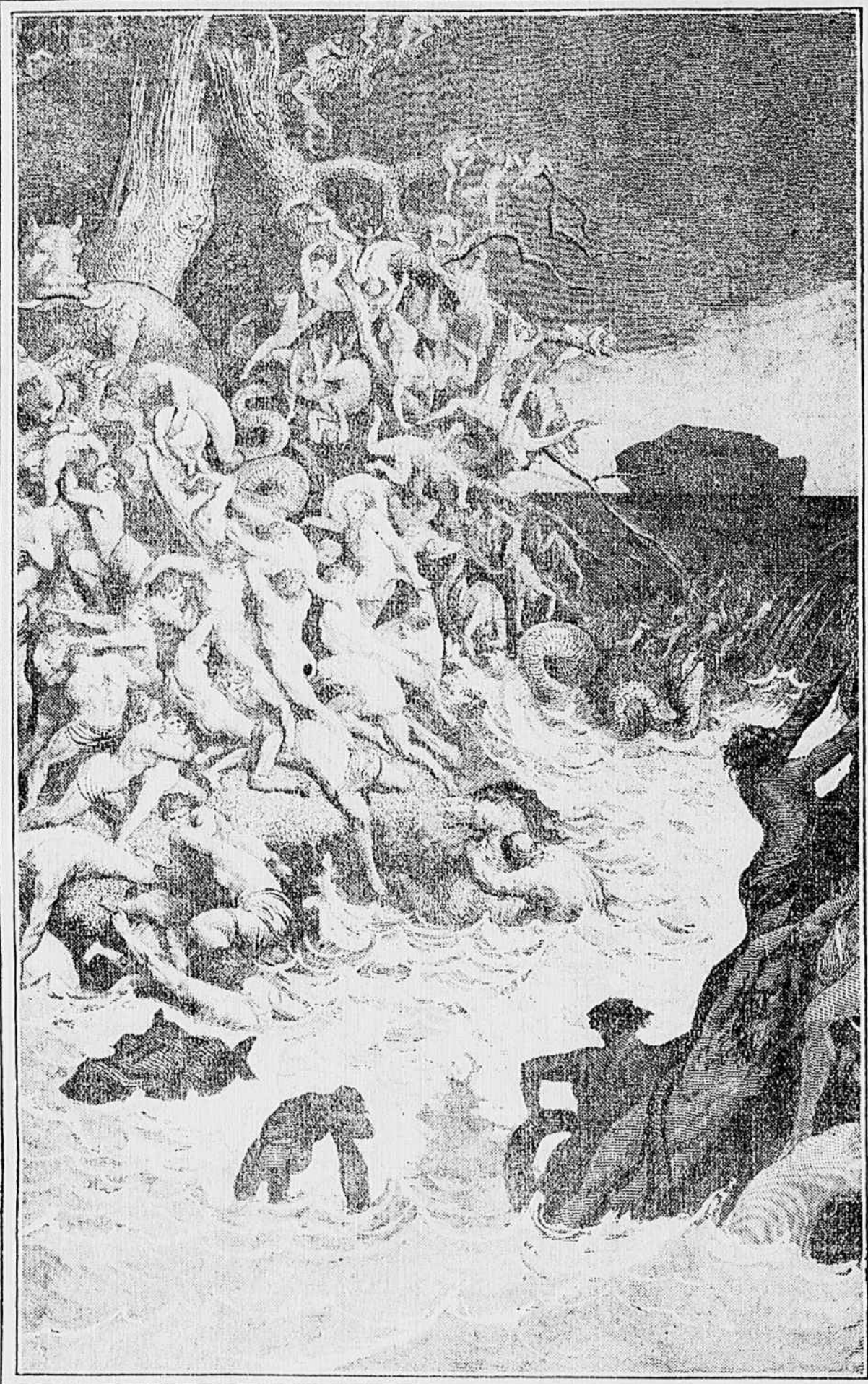
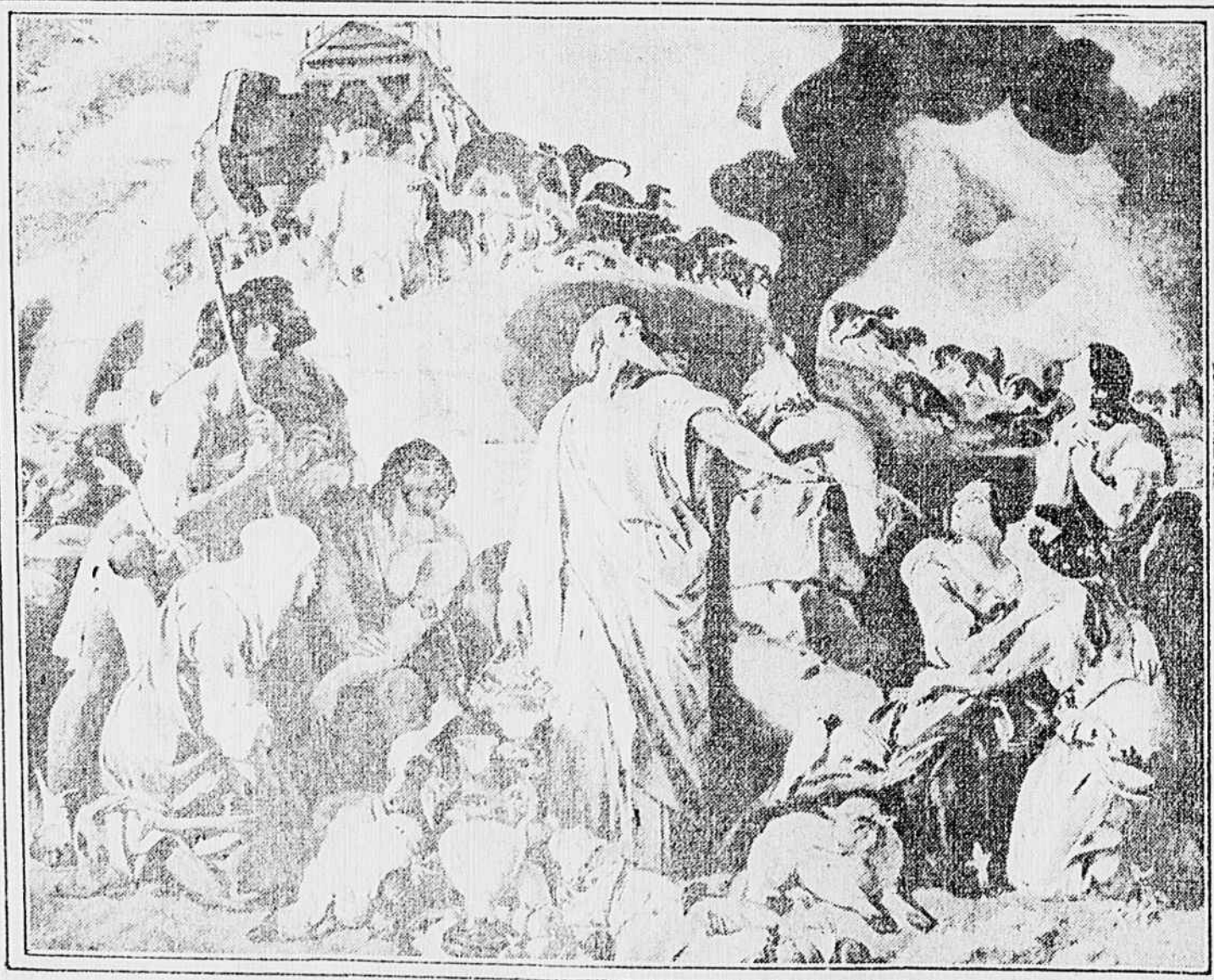


## During and After the Flood



Dore's striking conception of the Deluge, showing the men and animals fleeing from the rising flood while the Ark of Noah floats in the distance.



Noah's sacrifice of thanksgiving after the Ark had reached Mount Ararat and all of Noah's company had found safety on dry land.—By Daniel Machise, E. A.

# Science Explains the

## The Recent Discovery of the Lofty Arctic Section of the Earth Sagged Down to the South Pole and a Corresponding Rise Up Into This Sunken Arctic

By Prof. Garrett P. Serviss

**D**URING the recent meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science a significant remark was made by the president of the botanical section, which suggests a new theory of the cause and origin of Noah's Flood. The remark, which had no intentional connection with the theory referred to, was simply to the effect that the present distribution of organisms on the earth seems to be best interpreted by the assumption of a North Polar origin.

The theory assumes that hitherto a great mistake has been made in supposing that the deluge mentioned in the Bible occurred in any of the now inhabited parts of the earth, or within the period of recorded history. The Biblical story and its predecessor, the Babylonian story, of a great flood overwhelming mankind are assumed to represent a tradition, which has dimly floated in human memory for innumerable generations, concerning a catastrophe that occurred when mankind occupied a part of the globe from which they have since been excluded by natural conditions.

The site of this catastrophe was the region of the North Pole!

One of the greatest surprises resulting from the Arctic explorations of Nansen was the fact, which he first fully established, that the site of the Pole and most of the space within the Arctic Circle are occupied by a deep oceanic basin. At the same time the lands now existing around the shores of the Arctic Ocean exhibit unmistakable indications of having been at some former epoch the abode of an abundant animal and vegetable life, whose relics are now all buried in the earth.

On this matter we have so good an authority as Professor Charles G. Abbot, director of the Smithsonian Observatory, who says:

"There are certain circumstances of geology which may indicate a diminished radiation of the sun in ancient times. Although palms used to flourish in the Arctic zones, it does not appear that the tropics were then much hotter, if any, than now. As Manson insists, this uniformity of climate from the Poles to the Equator seems hard to reconcile with the present zonal distribution of temperature, if the sun were then, as now, the principal source of heat and its effects then, as now, zonally distributed.

"On the other hand, there is accumulating evidence that glaciation has occurred more than once over great regions of the tropics, and most notably in the Permo-Carboniferous period. In that remote period, far antedating the so-called 'glacial' or Pleistocene, period, of comparatively recent times, glaciation prevailed in Australia, southern Africa, Hindustan, and perhaps in other tropical regions.

### Warmth at the Poles and Cold in the Tropics

"We may suppose that the full maintenance of ordinary temperatures required formerly, as it does now, the co-operation of the blanketing effect of the water vapor of the earth's atmosphere, and that in addition to this the earth's internal sources of heat were then of some appreciable importance in maintaining its surface temperature. The earlier the period we consider the greater we may suppose the contribution of the earth's own heat and the less the requirement of the sun. But we may assume that all three factors, solar radiation, terrestrial conduction and the blanketing effect of the earth's atmosphere, were required to maintain genial temperatures in the Permian period."

The gist of the theory under consideration is that once there was a continent where now the Arctic Ocean rolls, and that this mysterious Polar continent was the earliest home of man, from which he was driven by climatic changes, culminating in a sinking of the land and a great invasion of the sea. The memory of this catastrophe, persisting in the form of varying legends among all the descendants of the men who witnessed it, gave rise to the traditions of a universal deluge, which are found scattered through the folk lore of all parts of the Northern Hemisphere.

Let us now see, in a little more detail, by what arguments this theory may be supported.

The great difficulty which science has found in accepting the Bible account of Noah's deluge, even as an exaggerated legend of an actual occurrence, lies in the fact that no parts of the earth which are known to have been inhabited by man within the period covered by the most ancient history, or pre-history, present any indication of having been swept by a universal flood, covering even the mountain tops, like that described in the Hebrew history.

Nothing is gained by pushing back the date of the deluge some thousands, or tens of thousands, of years, because geology shows that no entire continents in the now habitable portions of the globe have been submerged since the earliest date that can be ascribed to the appearance of man. There have been small and very slow subsidences and elevations, but nothing in the nature of a universal flood, or any sudden, all-whirling catastrophe.

### An Explanation of the Atlantis Legends

Yet the Bible narrative finds a curious support, not only in the Babylonian records, but in the famous legend of the lost Atlantis, which fascinated the great Greek philosopher Plato. The Atlantis story, which came down to Plato's time from a dim antiquity, avers that there was formerly a continent in the Atlantic Ocean which was submerged, with all its inhabitants, who had attained a wonderful degree of civilization and were the greatest people on the earth. It was the belief of Plato that the lost continent occupied the centre of the ocean between Europe, or Africa, and America, although, of course, he knew nothing of America.

This belief has been thought to be justified by recent deep-sea explorations which have disclosed irregularities on the bottom of the Atlantic that might once have been the surface of the sunken continent. There seem to be mountain chains and valleys there, and the peaks of the Azores, the Canaries and the Cape de Verde Islands have been regarded as possibly protruding parts of the missing Atlantis.

But here a great difficulty arises. If Atlantis really did sink at the place assigned within so recent a period as that covered by the history of man, there must have been a violent reaction in the earth's crust, and this would have left its marks upon Europe, Africa and America. Gigantic tidal waves, tremendous earthquakes, a sudden climatic change and other convulsions would attend so vast a catastrophe as the sinking of a continent—but no indications of such calamitous occurrences are discoverable.

It is true that the latest ice age may have come in the days of primitive man, but that is otherwise explainable, while the result

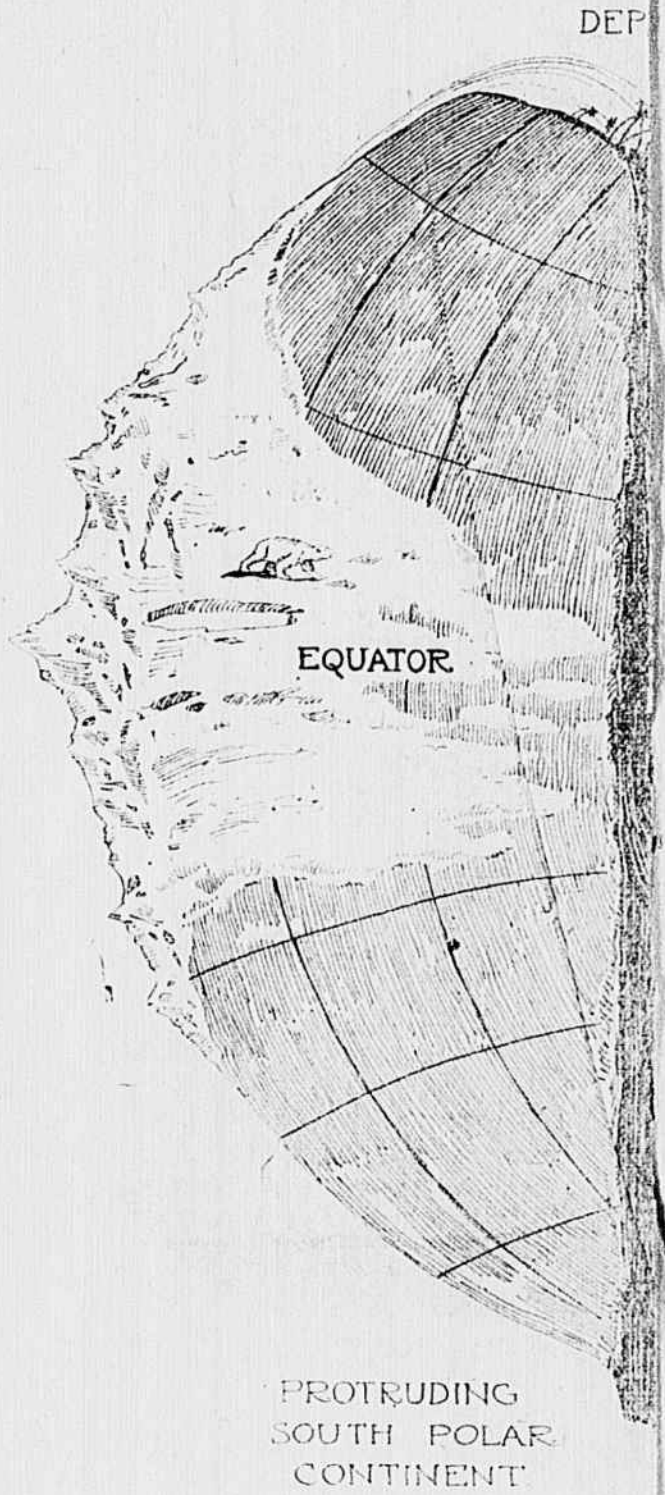


Diagram showing through from the North and very high continent North Pole. Such a continent of the sea and produced in the Book of Genesis. This may have been the cause of the climate existing at the earth around the equator.

of a sudden expansion of the ocean the cold, but rather to make the

The difficulty would be avoided if the Atlantis were supposed to have been situated directly off the coast of North America, but in the remote northern part of the Arctic Circle. In that location a vast submergence without affecting seriously the

But what could cause so great a part of the planet's surface by the deep Arctic Ocean was a depression when it sank a depression tended over millions of square miles underlying strata could account for we might be at a loss to offer any recent discoveries concerning the

Among these discoveries one of the most important is the discovery of gravity of the globe is not fixed. In consequence of these changes, known, the earth's axis of rotation revolves like an imperfectly balanced top. The changes, though quite rapid enough to have effects discoverable by astronomical observation.

Now, this discovery suggests of an ancient Arctic continent a human family which had its beginning

### Constant Shifting of the Earth

How this may be will appear when the Japanese discoverer of the centre of gravity, finds that it moves, north and south along the line of motion is of the slightest, but there was very considerable.

The central core of the earth has been thought that it may be composed of heavy metallic substances, mostly of this dense core would produce a